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BRIEFS

MBTS UNDERGRAD EXPANDING BY SIX

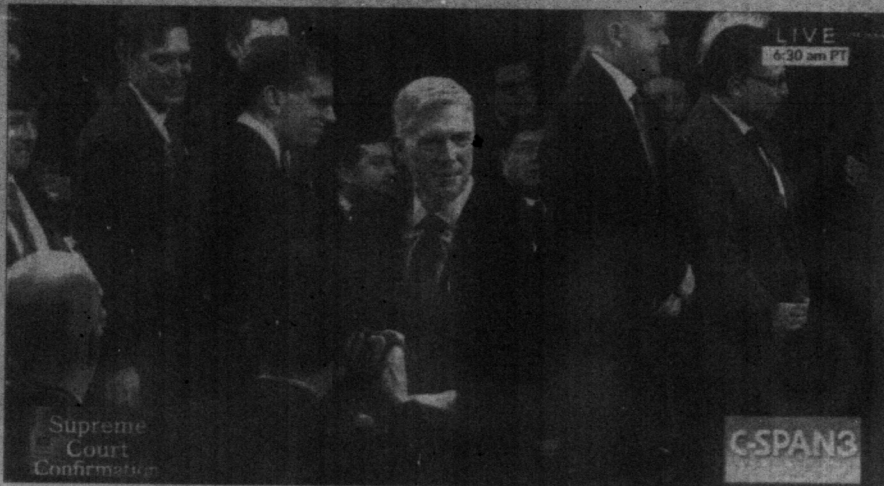
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — Midwestern College, Midwestern Seminary's undergraduate arm in Kansas City, Mo., has announced an expansion of its undergraduate degree programs. In addition to its three bachelor of arts degrees in biblical studies, Christian ministry, and intercultural studies, the college has expanded its curriculum to include bachelor of arts degrees in student ministry, worship ministry, theology, philosophy, counseling psychology, and business leadership. The college was established in 2004. Students interested in applying can visit midwesterncollege.com or MBTS.edu/college.

NO-GO TO ASSISTED SUICIDE THIS YEAR

HONOLULU (BP and local reports) — Bills to legalize assisted suicide have failed so far this year in eight of 24 states considering it, including Mississippi where state Senators Robert L. Jackson of Meric and Deborah J. Dawkins of Pass Christian filed Senate Bill 2283, the Death with Dignity Act. This bill died on deadline. A LifeWay Research survey last year found 67% of Americans believe it is morally acceptable for terminally ill patients to ask their doctors for help in ending their lives. At least four Southern Baptist Convention resolutions have opposed assisted suicide since 1992.

ULTRASOUND LAW ATTACKED IN KY.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — U.S. District Judge David Hale of Louisville, Ky., is considering whether to grant a request from the American Civil Liberties Union to block Kentucky's new law requiring abortion clinics to allow women to view ultrasound images of their baby and hear a description of the images. Hale, an appointee of former U.S. President Barack Obama, gave attorneys additional time to file supplemental briefs after a day-long hearing on March 23. Kentucky legislators also passed a law that bans abortions after 20 weeks. It has not been challenged in court.



READY FOR QUESTIONS — Neil Gorsuch (center) arrives at the Hart Office Building in Washington, D.C., on March 21 to answer questions from members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee regarding his nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Donald Trump. (BP screen capture courtesy of C-Span)

Gorsuch parries with Senators

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Colorado federal appeals court judge Neil Gorsuch, nominated in late January to the U.S. Supreme Court by U.S. President Donald Trump, accepted the accolades of Republican members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee while weathering criticism and avoiding the snares of Democrats during a March 21 hearing on his nomination.

While steadfastly declining to elaborate on such issues as

abortion and assisted suicide that may come before the Supreme Court in the future, he was not reluctant to explain his ruling in a landmark religious liberty case.

Gorsuch, age 49, readily provided answers to inquiries about his role as a member of the Denver-based United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit that heard the case of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, in which he in effect supported the free exer-

cise of religion rights by Hobby Lobby.

The case drew national attention to the question of whether a business is required to follow federal mandates when the owners of the business object on religious grounds. The Supreme Court, like the 10th Circuit, ultimately ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby.

In response to Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Ut., Gorsuch agreed

see GORSUCH on p. 5

MC agrees to sale of STAR 93.5

CLINTON, Ms. (Special) — Mississippi College (MC) leaders have agreed to the sale of school-owned radio station STAR 93.5, situated on the Clinton campus. The station also known as WHJT has offered Central Mississippi listeners contemporary Christian music, news, weather, sports, and other information for decades.

The purchase price and other financial details of the sale were not disclosed.

The buyer is Clay Holladay's company, New South Radio Inc. It will take at least three months for the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., to approve the proposed sale.

MC leaders in a statement said the station has remained faithful to the university's Christian mission. In addition, STAR 93.5 offered a variety of information to meet its public service role.

"It has done so with a dedicated and outstanding staff over the years who have devoted their talents and work towards its success," the MC statement reads.

Star 93.5 is located the basement of MC's Aven Fine Arts Building. WHJT began

see RADIO on p. 7

Was Wyoming judge censured for beliefs?

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (BP) — Proponents of religious liberty have expressed mixed opinions on the Wyoming Supreme Court's censure of a judge who insists her religious beliefs would prevent her from performing same sex weddings.

Ruth Neely's counsel from Alliance Defending Freedom cited the court's decision not to remove her from the bench as a recognition "that her honorable beliefs about marriage do not disqualify her from serving her community as a judge."

However, Martha Lawley, a Wyoming attorney and former officer of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, told Baptist Press the ruling apparently "strips government officials of any religious liberty protections."

Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention executive director Lynn Nikkel said the ruling "gives reason for concern for the overall cause of religious liberty" in the state.

Neely, a municipal court judge and part-time circuit court magistrate, told a reporter in 2014, "We have at least one magistrate who will do same-sex marriages, but I will not be able to," according to the Wyoming Supreme Court's March 7 ruling.

By a 3-2 majority, Wyoming's high court ruled Neely's

statements violated state rules mandating "impartiality and fairness" among judges and forbidding "bias, prejudice, and harassment." The 32-page majority opinion repeated at least eight times that Neely was being disciplined for her judicial conduct and not her religious beliefs.

Though Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, a Republican, signed two pro-life bills into law March 9 — an ultrasound bill and a ban on distributing tissue from aborted babies for experimentation — Nikkel said there is "substantial support in the legislature, and now the courts [for] things like gay marriage, along with the lottery, legalization of marijuana, and other social issues that once would never have seen the light of day."



NEELY

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Staying focused

It's been a few years now since

comedian Kathy Griffin had her 15 minutes of fame at the Emmy Awards, where she managed to insult the whole of Christianity with her offensive remarks about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At base,

what she said was poor taste at its poorest and still represents the way many of the players in the American entertainment culture think of us.

Here's the direct quote from Griffin as she accepted an Emmy for best reality program for her Bravo Cable network show, *My Life on the D-List*:

*A lot of people came up here and thank Jesus for this award. I want you to know that no one had less to do with the award than Jesus. **** If Jesus, this award is my god now.*

Needless to say, the **** notation is a word that cannot be printed in a family newspaper in the context it was used by Griffin. That part of her remarks was edited out of the delayed broadcast that aired on E! cable network, but the uncut version was widely available on the Internet and cable talk shows.

If you've never heard of Kathy Griffin, you're not alone. A 46-year-old native of the Chicago area, Griffin's career has not exactly set Hollywood on fire. Even the tongue-in-cheek reference in her show's title to being on the "D-List" refers to her minor standing among show business elites.

Griffin may be better known for her voice work than her minimal acting and comedy careers. She has been the voice of the background for Vaseline Intensive Care commercials and a host of other products, as well as providing character voices on *The Simpsons* television show and others. However, Griffin's crowning career achievement, at least in some circles, seems to be her hosting of the annual *Guy* award.

Awards, which recognizes the "best" productions in the field of homosexual adult entertainment. Stripped of its semantic niceties, that means she is involved in the promotion of pornography.

Like many aging stars — or, as in Griffin's case, star wannabes — with careers in free-fall decline (where has she been lately?), Griffin felt it necessary to say something outrageous in an attempt to move the spotlight on to herself. It worked, if only for a brief time before the American public, ever hungry for new celebrity scandal, moved on.

How sad. Equally as sad, however, was Griffin's flippant defense of her remarks: "Am I the only Catholic left with a sense of humor?"

Did Griffin actually believe she was the one who had been wrong? Apparently, the same Hollywood types who consider the space between New York City and Los Angeles to be "flyover country," Griffin probably thinks of heartland Christians as backward, poorly educated fundamentalists who aren't hip enough to understand her off-color attempt at contemporary humor. At least, that's the way Christian characters are often portrayed to audiences in many Hollywood productions.

Suffice to say, if Griffin had said, "**** If Muhammad, or 'I want you to know that no one had less to do with this award than Buddha,' the mainstream news media elites would have been all over her, calling for her firing from *My Life on the D-List* and demanding boycotts of her products.

Christians are fair game, however. The whole Griffin incident is nothing less than another strong indication of the impact Christians seek to have, and are led to have, on the larger culture. It's a reality, though, that some people don't like the sound of that. Many Hollywood elites are plainly upset about it. They have targeted us for many years, and will continue to do so for many more years.

May we be strong enough to withstand their slurs and humiliations, and still keep our focus on Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). After what He did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.



GRIFIN

Does Bible address racism?

Seven biblical reasons why racism is wrong:

■ **God created all races** (Genesis 1:27). Every person from every race is created in the image of God. Races were not accidental or the result of sin. They are an expression of God Himself. He built diversity into the very DNA of mankind. If God created all races, then we must show value and respect for all races.

■ **All races are fallen and sinful** (Romans 3:10,23). The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is no race that can claim to be better than any other when it comes to the degree of sinfulness. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one" (CSB). What applies to individuals is true of races as well. We are all equally fallen.

■ **God loves all races** (John 3:16; 1 John 4:14). When the Bible says, "For God loves the world in this way..." (John 3:16 CSB), it is talking about the people of the world of all races and nationalities. God did not just show His love to one ethnic group, but all. That is why John says later that Jesus Christ is the world's Savior (1 John 4:14 CSB).

■ **Christ died for all races** (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Hebrews 9:12). The Apostle Paul says that Christ died for all the peoples of the world. The only hope any person of any race has for salvation is in Christ. Hebrews 9:12 says that Christ entered the "holy of holies" with His own blood "once for all" to make the sacrifice for our sins. If Christ died for all races, then we cannot discriminate one over another.

■ **Christ breaks down the wall between races** (Ephesians 2:14-15). Jesus not only broke down the wall of separation between us and God with His death on the Cross, but the wall that separates us from one another. He broke down the barriers of hatred and division by giving us peace with God and peace with one another. This was not just true for Jew and Gentile, but for all races.



Guest opinion

with David Johnson

■ **We are one in Christ** (Galatians 3:28-29). The unity we experience in Christ results from sharing a common faith in a common Savior that makes us part of the same family of God. That is why there is no more division between Jew and Gentile, male nor female, slave nor free. If we have all been saved by the same One, then we are all one in Him!

■ **All races will join together in heaven** (Revelation 7:9-10). Ultimately, there will be people in heaven glorifying God around His throne from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Revelation 7:9 CSB). We need to get used to joining together with people from other races because we are going to be spending eternity together! There will be no racism in heaven. That is just one of the things that will make heaven heaven!

I was visiting with a pastor who had received an anonymous letter from a person in his church recently lamenting the growing racial diversity in the congregation and the multi-ethnic expressions of worship. The letter said, "After all, this is the United States of America." I told the pastor I hope that person knows heaven is going to be filled with people from all races — even more than is the United States. He may not like it there!

The Bible gives us plenty of reasons to know that racism is wrong. We just need to believe it and live it.

Johnson is executive director of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention in Scottsdale. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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N.C. lawmakers challenge NCAA, ACC boycotts

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP and local reports) — Republican state legislators in North Carolina are alleging the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) violated their federal tax-exempt status by attempting to provoke a repeal of the Tar Heel State's transgender restroom law.

The law, known as House Bill (HB) 2, requires people to use the restroom appropriate to the gender listed on their birth certificates and not their self-avowed opposite gender. Mississippi has a similar law known as HB 1523 that is currently being challenged in federal court.

North Carolina GOP state Rep. Mark Brody filed the Athletic Associations Accountability Act (HB 328) in the state legislature March 13.

The measure has 17 cosponsors and would instruct leaders of the North Carolina General Assembly to "file a tax-exempt organization complaint (referral) with the Department of the United States Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, against both the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), alleging the organizations have engaged in excessive lobbying activities."

HB 328 explains, "Specifically, the NCAA and the ACC have exceeded the scope of their respective charters by using economic retaliation against the State of North Carolina for the purpose of forcing the General Assembly to adopt social legislation that is not connected to the core mission of either the NCAA or the ACC."

The IRS website states that 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations like the NCAA

and ACC may not devote "a substantial part of [their] activities" to "attempting to influence legislation."

Tami Fitzgerald, executive director of the North Carolina Values Coalition, said the NCAA and ACC "have given legislators numerous deadlines by which to repeal the people's privacy law, have engaged in behind-the-scenes discussions with legislators, including those at the highest levels, and have sought to harm the state economically by instituting a boycott of the state until [the transgender restroom law] is repealed."

"If that doesn't constitute attempting to influence legislation, then I don't know what would," Fitzgerald told Baptist Press (BP) in written comments.

After North Carolina enacted HB 2 last year, the NCAA pulled seven championship sporting events from the state. The NCAA's decision included first- and second-round games of the 2017 Division I men's basketball tournament, commonly known as March Madness, that were to be played in Greensboro.

The ACC responded to HB 2 by pulling from North Carolina all neutral-site championships for the 2016-17 academic year, including the 2016 football championship game.

Also at issue for the NCAA was HB 2's establishment of a statewide anti-discrimination law that did not include sexual orientation or gender identity among protected classes.

In addition to registering a complaint about lobbying, the Athletic Associations Accountability Act also would require public universities in North Carolina to disclose how their employees vote when

serving on NCAA and ACC committees.

In September, the chancellors of both the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University refused to disclose how they voted as members of the ACC Council of Presidents on moving championships from North Carolina, according to media reports.

The NCAA responded to HB 328 by denying that the Indianapolis-based organization has engaged in lobbying North Carolina lawmakers.

"All conversations that we've had with representatives in the state have been designed to provide information about our championships process and timeline, not take positions on legislation," the NCAA said in a statement, according to WBTV-TV in Charlotte, N.C.

"When the Board of Governors moved championships from North Carolina last year, it was a clear response to state laws that local communities admitted would make it difficult to assure that our events could be held in an environment that was safe, healthy, and free from discrimination for all those watching and participating in our events," the NCAA stated.

Mark Creech, executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina, told BP in written comments the IRS will have to determine whether the NCAA and ACC violated the regulation prohibiting "substantial" lobbying but, he said, "It is nothing less than double-speak to say they haven't taken a position on HB 2-related legislation."

"They've made it clear that the legislature can either repeal HB 2 or pass a compromise acceptable to them; otherwise, the state of North Carolina is going

to be excluded from the bidding process on hosting their games. Technically, they may be within the parameters of the law, but they certainly aren't following the spirit of the law."

Fitzgerald, an attorney, said she believes some actions of the NCAA and ACC constitute "substantial" lobbying activities that violate the organizations' tax-exempt status under the IRS code. These multi-million-dollar organizations are benefitting off the taxpayers of North Carolina, while extorting and attempting to cause economic harm to the state.

Economically, the Greensboro Coliseum estimates a loss of approximately \$500,000 from cancellation of NCAA men's basketball tournament games previously scheduled for March 17-19, the Chicago Tribune reported.

Moving the 2016 ACC football championship game may have impacted the conference negatively. The game was moved from Charlotte to Orlando, which resulted in the lowest attendance in the ACC Championship's 12-year history, according to The Post and Courier of Charleston, S.C.

Creech said "there's no question" relocation of this year's NCAA basketball tournament games "has hurt some" economically. "The bottom line, however, is that it hasn't hurt to any significant degree our state's economy... but no matter the size of the losses, there is no price too high to protect our citizens' fundamental right to privacy, safety, and religious liberty."

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper urged lawmakers to repeal HB 2 in his March 13 State of the State address, calling the bill "the dark cloud hanging over our state of promise," the Associated Press reported.

A March 14 attempt by Democrats to repeal HB 2 fell short.



FITZGERALD



BRODY



CREECH



2017 Baptist Global Response Spring Gift Catalog released

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptists will find Vacation Bible School ideas and more in the 2017 Baptist Global Response (BGR) Spring Gift Catalog.

BGR is a Southern Baptist humanitarian relief agency that focuses on disaster relief and community development in some of the world's poorest areas. Its spring and Christmas gift catalogs offer donors new avenues for connecting with people in need.

While BGR is not a legal entity of the Southern Baptist Convention it does heartily promote and endorse the SBC's Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist's giving channel for missions and ministry. BGR's partnership with Southern Baptists in meeting global human needs is fundamentally undergirded by those who give through

"While a Vacation Bible School class might not be able to travel to another country and see missions firsthand, students can participate through the BGR catalog and make a difference in the lives of other children."

Jeff Palmer

BGR CEO

their local churches to the Cooperative Program and to the Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief fund.

BGR supporters can purchase items like cows, water filters, and wells, and donate them in honor of friends and family. Many people buy catalog items for special oc-

casions such as holiday and birthday presents.

The 2017 Spring Gift Catalog also suggests kid-friendly items that children attending Vacation Bible Schools can purchase as offerings. These include small gifts such as 10 fish for \$3, 10 chickens for \$25, two rabbits for \$25 and more.

"While a Vacation Bible School class might not be able to travel to another country and see missions firsthand, students can participate through the BGR catalog and make a difference in the lives of other children," BGR CEO Jeff Palmer said. "By praying and giving to these projects, they can participate in a global effort to help people in need."

Copies may be requested by calling the BGR office at (866) 974-5623. The catalogs may also be downloaded at gobgr.org/gift-catalog/.

Recently I was in one of our court-houses in Mississippi and as I walked in the door, there was a nice table with an arrangement on it and a chair on each side of the table. I stopped not just to admire the arrangement of all of it, but because the chair had a sign taped to it. The chair on the other side of the table had an identical sign. Both read: "This chair is here for decorative purposes only." As I stood there, some of the people I knew came around me. They were looking at it too and I said, "I suppose this is a Christian chair," implying that it was there for decorative purposes only. Of course, I was being facetious but there may be some of us who are not available for service or to be of significant help to anyone other than just to be a pretty face and decorate the premises.

I think it was to some of us, who at times are not being what God called us to be, to whom Jesus was referring when He said about salt that if it has lost its savor, its flavor, its quality of bringing taste to others, then it's no good. In fact, He said it is good only to be thrown out and trodden under the foot of men (Matt. 5:13). We are not put here on this earth for decorative purposes only. Specifically and pointedly, when we come to know Christ as Savior and Lord the designs of God for our lives reach far beyond just being here for decorative purposes only.

The Apostle Paul clearly addresses this in his last book in 2 Timothy 2:20, "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some

to honour, and some to dishonor." He was probably referring to the fact that some items are used for great, high, and special purposes while other pieces serve more mundane purposes and have more practical usages. Whether gold or silver or wood or earthen, none were in the house just for decorative purposes. All of us have special, specific, effective purposes in Kingdom work. In other words, we aren't here just to look good, even sound good, or to put our talents on display. I'm always amazed when I see gifted and multi-gifted people. Multi-talented folks are a blessing and a rarity. Whether it is their musical, financial, or speaking ability, they can be mightily used of God but they (as with any of us) are not here for decorative purposes only.

I started thinking about the things in our home that have a function but don't function. For instance, through the years we have acquired a number of clocks. I like ticking, chiming clocks, but several of our clocks do not fill their purpose. They sit on the shelf or hang on the wall and twice a day have the correct time. Otherwise, they are just there for decorative purposes. I understand there are two reasons why they are not tick-tocking. Some of them are not working because I do not keep them wound, but a few of them are not working because they are broken and need to go to the clock shop. As I look at the house of God, I occasionally see those same things happen in some of the Lord's people. At times, we get wound down and need a spiritual rewinding — a renewal, a re-

freshing, a recharged challenge so we can fulfill what we were put here to do — and there are some who have gotten broken. Some have rainor problems that can be tweaked, and fixed by the Lord, and some are so incredibly difficult to repair that a major undertaking of the Lord will be necessary.

For those who are children of God and in the family of God but sitting off somewhere in a corner unused, ineffective, and with a brokenness in their hearts over some great sin that they cannot get past or a broken relationship that seems to be like a huge weight on their backs day and night, know that God can mend you, repair you, restore you, forgive you, lift you, and put you back in service for Him. We are not put here just to learn, just to sit by with a beautiful smile on our faces. We are not put here with the gifts of God poured into our lives without serving. We are not for decorative purposes only. We are servants. We are workers. We are disciples. We are people who respond to do the Word of God as well as learn the Word of God.

The Apostle James was adamant in telling us to be not hearers of the word, but doers of the word (James 1:22). If you've got a sign hanging on your life announcing that you're here for decorative purposes only, remove it. Let God take your hands, feet, voice, sweet spirit, knowledge, and energy and use you to bless those who pass by you and whom you pass by.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.



A Christian Chair!?

College News

► **Mississippi College** is sponsoring an International Festival Apr. 7, 6:30 p.m., Swor Auditorium. Events include a traditional Nepali dance, a fashion show featuring the national dress of Asian and African countries, music, and other features. Tickets at the door, \$7 students, \$10 faculty and staff, and \$15 for the public. Pre-event tickets available at a discount. For details, call Phala Echols at (601) 925-7762 or visit www.mc.edu/international.

► **Mississippi College** is hosting its annual Law Enforcement Career Day Apr. 4, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Anderson Hall in the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The event on the Clinton campus is open to MC students and others from institutions around the state. Police departments from across the Magnolia State and as far away as Austin, Texas will send representatives. The New Orleans police department is also expected to send its personnel here. For more information, contact Godfrey Garner at (601) 918-1390 or Administration of Justice director Harry Porter at (601) 925-3266.

► **The William Carey University** Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present Handel's Messiah, Part Three: A Service of Thanksgiving April 2 at First Church in Laurel. The performance will begin at 6 p.m. and feature William Carey University students as soloists. Don Odom will conduct with accompaniment by professor Kathy Vail. Admission is free.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Fair River Church, Lincoln Association:** Revival, Apr. 2 - 5; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Henderson, speaker; Nick Wolfe, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.

► **Southside Church, Vicksburg:** Revival, Apr. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker.

► **Society Hill Church, Oak Vale:** Revival, Apr. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Stephens, speaker; Josh Lee, minister of music; Jake Staten, pastor.

► **County Line Church, Crystal Springs:** Revival, Apr. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Terry Fant, Todd Baker, and Praise Team from Hickory Ridge Church, leaders.

► **Meadowbrook Church, Byhalia:** Revival, Apr. 2 - 5; Phil Glisson, speaker.

► **Salt Creek Church, Mabon:** Revival, Apr. 9 - 12; Sun., 6:00 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Dan Robertson, speaker; Jeremy and Savannah Brown, music; Larry W. Watson, pastor.

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BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP PASTOR: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Moulton, AL is receiving resumes for a part-time bi-vocational worship pastor. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to joycesouthside@aol.com

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Foundation News • Scholarship Edition • Spring 2017

S-I-M-P-L-E

[adj]. (sim-pel) or (sim-puh l) = 1. Not hard to understand or do; 2. Not complex or fancy; 3. Not complicated or elaborate; 4. Having few parts.

Examples of simple in a sentence: 1. The solution to the problem is really quite simple. 2. There are three simple steps to follow. 3. Don't go into too much detail. Just keep it simple and to the point. 4. Establishing a scholarship through the MBF is S-I-M-P-L-E.

Daniel C. Hall
Executive Director, MBF

Have you ever heard of the *KISS* method for making decisions or for proceeding toward the accomplishment of a goal? While I recognize that as an acronym, the *KISS* method can be outlined in various ways, I would like to submit "Keep It Simple and Sweet" or "Keep it Short and Simple."

Since the inception of the Foundation's scholarship ministry, thousands of Mississippi Baptist

students have received both financial blessings and encouragement through scholarship grants. Estimates suggest that The Mississippi Baptist Foundation has touched upward of 10,000 students with over \$7.5 million during the past generation (since 1990). This privilege to award scholarships has been afforded the Foundation by individuals and churches across Mississippi who have demonstrated both the foresight and generosity to "plant a tree so that future generations can enjoy the shade."

Please receive this edition of *Foundation News* as a simple announcement of our scholarship ministry combined with a simple attachment outlining our award recipients for 2016-17. In addition, please hear our simple appeal for you to consider a simple approach for blessing future generations of students.



Daniel C. Hall

continued on back

"As of last January, I have taken the role as youth intern at the church where I am under the supervision of the youth ... for ... as I am preparing to become a youth pastor myself. ... My calling that God has given me to pursue is to become a math teacher and a youth pastor. My favorite Bible verses are Philippians 3:12-14 which encourage me to strive for the goals that are in Christ Jesus. Thank you again for this scholarship which encourages me both spiritually and academically."

— William Carey University student
pursuing Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

"This timely gift came right after my husband and I discovered we were expecting our first child! We were wondering just how we were going to juggle tuition payments in with the expenses of pregnancy and a newborn. This gift arrived and reminded us, once again, that God is our sovereign provider. There was much praising and delighting in Him when we received that scholarship letter! ... My husband ... is also finishing up a degree here. ... We are thrilled to be at NOBTS another year and even more thrilled to be here and beginning this new journey of parenthood."

— New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary student
pursuing degree in Psychology and Counseling

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BLUE MOUNTAIN
COLLEGE

MISSISSIPPI
COLLEGERichland

Katie Lovichova	Richland
Michaela Rainey	Madison
Zachary Roberts	Meridian
Emma Rogers	Columbia
Brody Rogers	Florence
Rebecca Schmidt	Vicksburg
Carson Seaberg	Seokhaven
Laurynelle Smith	Pate
Malie Smith	Pontiac
Jake Thomas Sanford	Water Valley
Madison Stephens	Pepperville
Gabriel Renee Sullivan	Buckatunga
Audie Taylor Smithwick	Louis
Andrew Turner	McComb
Wendy Marie Thomas	Clinton
Madison Tachib	Raymond
Leahann Thomas	Madison
Wesley A. McThomas	Brandon
Ann Louisa Townsend	Madison
Alicia Nicole Townsend	Madison
Seann Grace Townsend	Clinton
Alicia Tress	Canton
Connor Maxwell	Brandon
Elizabeth Grace Tress	Coffeaville
Payton Brown	Brandon
Wilson Kline Brown	Canton
Laura Bryant	Madison
William Clint Chapman	Brandon
Cooper John Chavis	Grenada
Ashley Cich	Southaven
Hannah Davidson	Saucier
Angelica Grace Fillingame	Jackson
Jonathan Fletcher	Flowood
Corvus Ellen Ford	Kosciusko
Connor Fortsonberry	Madison
Brayden Hunter Foster	Wesson
Emmalyn Foy	Pearl
James R. Futch III	Madison
Snelle Gaudner	Columbus
Taylor Lawson Giles	Brandon
Malay Gray	Brandon
William Alex Hamilton	Brandon
Bria Lindsey Hicks	Natchez
Alexis Hunter	Southaven
Helen Jasper	Brandon
Taylor Jones	Pearl
Kimberlee Ann Kuhn	Hernando
Austin Mike King	Water Valley
Brittany Kirk	Oliver Branch
Mary Todd Knight	Vanceville
Kathleen Lee	Clinton
South Lewis	Clinton
Andrew Lyons	Brandon
Joy Marble	Lucedale
Alexis McCarty	Brandon
Karla Daniel McCully	Tupelo
Samuel A. McGee	Hernando
Michelle Meyer	Brandon

Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Mary Morgan Robinson	Yazoo City
Wendy Ann White	Sumrall
Mark Marchand	Lake Cormac
Jonathan Housley	Collinsville
John Galt	Madison
Jonathan Parks	Clinton
Eric Panchest	Hernando
Clinton Panchest	Madison
Caroline Grace Pratt	Clinton
Sherry L. Carr, Jr. II	Charleston
John Galt	Kennelwood
John Galt	Charleston
Anthony Bailey Risher	Crystal Springs
Anthony Bailey	Madison
Chad Lee Robinson	Greenwood
John Galt	Madison
Emily Elizabeth Smith	Brandon
Anthony Bailey	Hall County
Angela L. Smith	Mount Olive
Robert L. Smith	Hernando
Mary Elizabeth Stringer	Tylertown
Debra Tate	Madison
Robbie Taylor	Olive Branch
Sarah Thomas	Madison
Lindsay Thompson	Laurel
Sarah Trumble	Southaven
Kevin Upchurch	Madison
Lucy Vanhorn	Winona
Melody Walker	Brandon
Ryan Warnick	Tupelo
Larrie Warren	Poplarville
Brayden West	Brandon
Melody Lynn Williams	Madison
Madison Nicole Young	Tupelo

Deanna Henry	D'Iberville
Jon Gilbert Hofffield	Laurel
Lydia Brooke Howard	Poplarville
Anna Elise Langley	Prentiss
Wyatt Lindsey	Hattiesburg
Aar & Elizabeth McDaniel	Yazoo City
Steven Wesley Page	Laurel
Kyle Marie Robinson	Columbia
Randa Shiller	Blacksburg
Marissa Seltzer	Patoka
Kathleen Thomas	McComb
Michael Thompson	Brandon
Jimmy E. Tisdale, III	Ellisville
Lauren Wells	Summit
Aliah Williams	Hickory
April Woodard	Florida

Sarah Ellen Reed	Blue Springs
Roger Wayne Reeder	Ecru
Joseph Ford Rigney	Madison
Christopher W. Robbins	Patoka
Brian W. Sanderson	Pearl
Caleb Sayger	Hernando
Jan T. Sheridan	Parklinton
Jonathan Sherwin	Florence
William Kirby Sisson	Clinton
Hunter A. Slay	Tupelo
Matthew Spencer	Brandon
Christopher Terry	Guntown
Wilson Blake Vance	Starkville
Amber Grace Barnes Warren	Glen Allen
DeAnn Leard Washington	Lexington
Matthew Welford	Lucedale
Kayleigh White	New Albany
Solomon Carl White	Patoka
Kimberly Lynette Williams	Madison

GATEWAY SEMINARY

Robert Lee Davis	Dumas
Tiffany E. Davis	New Albany

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mathew Bell	Starkville
Wesley Ward Barker	Granada
Kathryn Allison Beland	Gulfport
Paul Levi Burnham	Laurel
Marcus Scott Cooksey	Collinsville
LeeAnn Culbertson	Vicksburg
Shandy Lynn Dill	Satsuma
Jared T. Ennis	Tylertown
Bradley Edward Fletcher	Madison
Stevie Franks	Philadelphia
Luke Gardner	Baldwyn
James David Hall	Tupelo
Andrew Hanna	Louisville
Charles Hecher	Florence
Nicholas Tyler Hughes	Madison
Matthew Scott Kelly	Brandon
Nicholas Lewis	Florence
Thomas Scott Lister, Jr.	Madison
Hunter Lynch	Jackson
Janna McMurphy	Olive Branch
Daniel Moody	Jackson
Kyle Morgan	Forrest
Johnathan Nguyen	Collins
Zerana Nguyen	Collins
Joseph Adam Pace	Picayune
Robert Adam Parkin	Madison
James E. Paavy II	Marion
Christopher B. Phillips	Bogue Chitto
Dustin Russell Pierce	Starkville
Christopher Lee Prother	Clinton

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Sethany Layna Allen	Charlottesville
Thomas Earl Capps	Terry
Kristin Fowler	West Point
Rabon Huggins	Madison
Allen Paul Haysweck II	Hattiesburg
Julie Johnson	Columbia
Andrew Lance Williams	Madison
Christopher Matthew Wilton	Clinton

SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Randall Coffield	Hattiesburg
Cody Lewis Hardin	Esport
Candice Shay Holland	Indianola

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Buddy Fortenberry	Oxford
Tina Hopkins	Brandon
John Mark Jarrett	Tupelo
Richard McKay	Philadelphia
John Caleb Monaghan	Amery
Ann Maritt Moore	Brandon
Matthew Munlin	Houston
Austin Nicholson	McComb
Andrew M. Payne	Golden
Gary Roberson	Sturgis
Christian Stricker	Madison
Arion Mark Sturm	Hattiesburg
Christina Windom	Madison

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

Alexandra Anthony	Madison
Kristen Bond	Sumrall
Hunter Paul Brand	Meridian
Kathryn Renee Brown	Sumrall
Daniel Seth Browne	Moselle
Taylor Burke	Balmain
Mary Grace Caldwell	Columbus
Taylor Cannon	Patoka
Malory Carney	Richman
Brian Clays	Philadelphia
Zachary M. Daley	Prentiss
Tiffany Gayle DeVore	Picayune
Jordan Duplessie	Gulfport
Emily Easit	Tylertown
Kimberly Gilbert	Savner
Hilary Oiler	Meridian
Haley Hanberry	Hattiesburg
Rebecca Harding	Patoka
Emily Bryan Langley Harvell	Laurel

"I praise God for Mississippi Baptists who see the value in supporting young ministers.... If it were not for you all, there is no telling where I would be. I grew up in the Baptist Children's Village in Independence, MS. That is where I first heard the message of Jesus Christ. ... I want you to know that I am who I am today because of the investment Mississippi Baptists have made in my life. I am both blessed and encouraged by you. ... My wife and I are grateful for this investment and we promise to be diligent and intentional as [we] study and do ministry in San Francisco."

— Gateway Seminary student
pursuing Master of Divinity degree

"I am a mother of four children and the wife of a pastor in North Mississippi. I sensed the Lord directing me to complete my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education last year. We have prayed that God would provide the funds for me to attend a Christian college, like Blue Mountain College, where I can prepare for my degree and grow spiritually as well. I consider it a great privilege to be a recipient of a scholarship that will be an answer to that prayer. Thank you."

— Blue Mountain College student
pursuing Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education

"My plan after I obtain my B.S. degree in Political Science/Pre-Law is to move on to Mississippi College law School. ... Also, one of my major goals after college is to run for political office. Now more than ever, I think it is our duty as Christians to get involved in our political system and try to make a difference in our communities, state, and nation. Again, thank you Dr. Hall and to the generous individuals who established this scholarship fund. I greatly appreciate it."

— Mississippi College student
pursuing Bachelor of Science in Political Science/Pre-Law

continued from front

While the Foundation's scholarship ministry has expanded over the years, the amount of funds available for distribution continues to lag behind the increasing costs of higher education. The solution to this challenge is really quite simple, with only three simple steps to follow. First, pray that the Lord would guide your heart as you seek first His kingdom with respect to your financial stewardship. Second, contact The Mississippi Baptist Foundation for assistance in leaving a lasting legacy through the establishment of a scholarship. Third, experience the joy of knowing untold numbers of students will have the opportunity to experience Kingdom-sized blessings as a result of your foresight and generosity. Remember that establishing a scholarship through The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is S-I-M-P-L-E. Or, in other words, a Scholarship is an Investment in Ministry and People as a Legacy of Encouragement.

**TIME
IS RUNNING
OUT!**

Scholarship applications
are due **May 31**
for the 2017-18 academic year.

Apply now at
msbaptistfoundation.org



Public Servants

The 2017 session of your Mississippi Legislature will soon be history. It was my first session to serve as the Director of your Christian Action Commission. What a privilege and responsibility you have given me to work with these Public Servants — men and women who sacrifice much to lead our state. Whether in Jackson or in their home district, they continue to serve as Public Servants — they need and deserve our prayers.

We read in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 where Paul said to Timothy, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and hon-

esty." I glean four Concepts from Paul's admonition.

(1) We CAN PRAY BECAUSE of our Public Servants. The Bill of Rights in our state and nation was formulated and is preserved by our Public Servants. Our freedom of worship and the privilege of prayer are precious. Daniel lost that privilege but prayed anyway. We should take full advantage of the opportunity. Our National Day of Prayer is coming up on May 4 — be somewhere in a public place of prayer.

(2) We MUST PRAY FOR our Public Servants. Paul

exhorts us to do so. We pray for their wisdom and courage. We pray for their health and safety (whether traveling or out in the public). We pray for their spouses and families. We pray for them by name. We let them know we are praying for them.

(3) We SHOULD PRAY WITH our Public Servants. We have an annual Legislative Prayer Breakfast (which was January 12) where we invite our state officials and legislators to come and pray together. What a privilege to pray with them. We have a devotion and prayer time in the Capitol Building on

Tuesday mornings at 8:30 (had the privilege to speak on March 21) — what a blessing. Why not have a special service in your church or association and invite all your Public Servants to pray with you? Why not utilize them in your men's, women's or youth ministry to speak, and then pray with them? At our first Christian Leadership Institute at Blue Mountain College on July 9-13, 2018, we will have the opportunity to pray with our Public Servants.

(4) We WILL PRAY ABOUT our Public Servants. Our Public Servants are elected by us to serve — what a steward-

ship given to us. We must vote for the best choice (not perfect, not party), but best choice available. This should always be a matter of prayer (James 1:5). If you pray, you will vote. To vote for the wrong person is a sin of commission — to not vote is a sin of omission.

Most of us may never be an elected official, but all of us should be Public Servants. Prayer is a Public Service.

We are available to come to your church, association, camp, Bible conference, meeting, etc. Please pray for us.

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

OBITUARY

James "Jimmy" Edward King, 90, of Hattiesburg, died Feb. 6. Graveside services were Feb. 8 in Hattiesburg at Moore Funeral Home with burial in Highland Cemetery. King was a member of Main Street Church. He served in the U.S. Army. He was a graduate of William Carey University, New Orleans Seminary, and did graduate work at

the University of Southern Mississippi. He was a Southern Baptist minister for more than 35 years, serving 26 of those years at Trinity Church in Wilma, Ala. After his retirement, he served as interim pastor for numerous churches. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Shirley King of Hattiesburg, and one brother, Tommy King, of Columbus.

GORSUCH

cont. from p. 1

the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), a 1993 federal law at the heart of the case, protects individuals with minority religious beliefs as much as for-profit corporations owned by evangelical Christians.

Gorsuch told Hatch the 10th Circuit also held RFRA applied to a Muslim prisoner in Oklahoma who was denied a halal meal (*Abdulhaseeb v. Calbone*, 2010). "It's also the same law that protects the rights of a Native American prisoner who was denied access to his prison sweat lodge, it appeared, solely because of a crime he committed, and it was a heinous crime but it protects him too" (*Yellowbear v. Lampert*, 2014).

"I wrote the [decision in the] Native American prisoner case and wrote a concurrence in the Muslim case."

The Judiciary Committee is expected to vote on April 3 whether to send Gorsuch's nomination to the full Senate for a formal confirmation vote. Observers have said they believe the nomination will be approved by the Judiciary Committee and sent to the full Senate.

Trump nominated Gorsuch to the high court in late January, nearly a year after the death of Associate Justice Antonin Scalia. Like Scalia, Gorsuch espouses a philoso-

phy and record of interpreting the U.S. Constitution and laws based on the Constitution's original meaning and a law's text, respectively.

The opposing viewpoint, held mostly by political moderates and liberals, espouses the Constitution as a "living, breathing document" that must be interpreted to include evolving cultural and social changes of the moment.

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville sponsored a letter Feb. 1 in which more than 50 Southern Baptist and other evangelical leaders called for the confirmation of Gorsuch.

The signers said they believe Gorsuch's judicial philosophy meets the thresholds of their "core social principles." Those precepts include in the Supreme Court's purview "the protection of the unborn, the strengthening of religious liberty, and a dedication to human flourishing — which we believe can only be accomplished by a biblical definition of marriage and family."

Gorsuch was raised a Roman Catholic but is currently an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Boulder, Co., which is led by a female rector and uses the word, "inclusive," on its web site.

MS POSITIONS

JERICHO BAPTIST CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, IS SEARCHING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please email resume to Jericho Baptist Church, 2119 CR 171, Guntown, MS 38849.

WANTED: BIVO MIN. OF WORSHIP, NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, OXFORD, MS. Top line keyboardist, drums, guitars, small vocal team (no choir). Sundays with a weekly practice. Must be able to blend styles. Salary/experience. Ref's. Email: buster@reagan.com, or call 662-234-3660.

LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED IN BILOXI, IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A MUSIC MINISTER with a passion to lead a traditional and contemporary service. We hope to find someone who enjoys directing an adult and children's choir, as well as leading a praise team. Please email resumes to secretary@lemonyebaptist.com.

SOUTHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR MINISTER OF YOUTH. Please email resumes to southwaybaptist@yahoo.com.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR - BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED AT MERIDIAN, MS IN THE WHYNOT COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN LAUDERDALE COUNTY. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church 4475 Ponds Road Meridian, MS 39301.

BIBL iOCiPHER

SIWYWLBYW CNDU ZMSB UBZ, PIDS

SICMHN NBWOWY UW GWNCYW,

PIWM UW EYDU, AWVCWOW SIDS UW

YWKWCOW SIWX, DMG UW NIDVV

IDOW SIWX.

XDYJ WVVOWM: SPWMSU-LBZY

Clue: P = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James 2:5

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. The feature is frequently requested to further honor, with gifts and toasts, those who are and have been special to church and family groups.

JANUARY

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Edith Eldridge
William B. Webb
Frank Falleur
Mr. Fernal Morton
Rev. Billy Floyd
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford
Teresa Nell Folke
Lena Norris SSC, Moselle Memorial BC
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Mrs. Evelyn H. Glenn
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James Clayton Graham
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
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Ms. Dian Grundy
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Mrs. Carrie S. Evans
Elaine Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring
Inez Herring
Mr. W. B. Herring
Harvey Hertenstein
Bovina BC

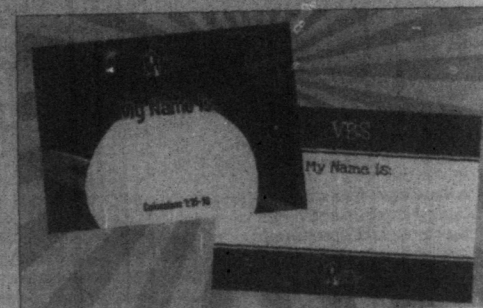
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Bob Longwell
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Morris May
McCool BC

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Magnolia
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Dorcas SSC, Whitesand BC
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Mr. Pete Moore
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Dorthea Jones McGrill
Frank & Sandra B. Crosthwait
Lula Gwendolyn (Gwen) Craft
Moseley
Lena Norris SSC, Moselle Memorial BC
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Betty Nail
Byron & Nell Dean
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Mr. & Mrs. Mike Domino
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Gary Thrash
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Mr. Joseph Tillman
Arch & Karen Howell
Dunay Townsend
L. D. & Sarah Warren
Florence Tynes

Mrs. Sharon Dungan
Mr. Richard Lee Wadley
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Reverte
Rev. P. Bert Wall
Frances & Dewey Allen
Jerry Wallace
Krandall & Winnie Len Howell
Billy Ivan Ware
Mr. & Mrs. Tyrone Wells and Family
Mr. R. W. Williams
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins

Dwight Wilson
Stanford BC
C. S. (Benny) Woodruff
Mrs. Tolitha Stanford
Robert (Coot) Wooten
Jackie & Carolyn Wooley
Willie Lee Wynne
Arlington Heights BC
Dad of Jim Yeager
Dot Griffin
Mr. Billy Zeigler
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge



FREE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NAME TAGS

Free Vacation Bible School name tags are available from The Baptist Children's Village. There are two themes. One to compliment the Lifeway theme and one generic design to work with any curriculum. There are also opportunities for BCV speakers to come to your church and for VBS mission projects.

Please go to www.baptistchildrensvillage.com for more information and to order your free name tags.

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Case Manager Position Available in Waynesboro

The BCV has an immediate opening for an individual to fill the position of case manager on its Waynesboro, Mississippi campus. Applicants for this position must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, Christian character and sound reputation. Applicants must have a demonstrated commitment to the ethical standards incumbent upon each member of the BCV staff and an appreciation of the confidentiality extended to children and families served by the BCV. The successful candidate will have a demonstrated ability to cultivate adaptive relationships with both children and adults. This individual must also have the ability to effectively communicate, through both written and spoken language, exhibit sound clinical judgment, tact and assertiveness, and be able to work effectively with residents, their families, referral sources and BCV staff. As this position requires a great deal of direct contact with residents and their families, the successful candidate for this position must have a relatively flexible schedule and be able to work at those times when the residents are on campus or when their families may be available.

Individuals seeking this position must have a Master's Degree in a behavioral or social science field. An individual with a Bachelor's Degree in a behavioral or social science field, and extensive case management experience in the field of residential or mental health care may be considered.

To apply for this position, please contact Dr. Randy Cotton at rcotton@baptistchildrensvillage.com, or complete the application found at <https://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com/about/careers-employment> and send it, along with a statement of faith and a resume copy to Dr. Randy Cotton at 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

If I Reject Jesus • Matthew 21:33-45

I lived on the Mississippi Gulf Coast when Hurricane Camille struck. I vividly remember the story of a group who decided they would not heed the warning of the authorities begging them to evacuate. Although they were told this was a massive storm with winds well above 250 mph they threw the warnings back into the faces of those who risked their lives to try and save them and had a party. The next morning the world discovered those who ignored the warnings had met their deaths in the churning waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

One does not have to read very much of the Old Testament to appreciate that God, in love, issued warning after warning of what would happen if His people rejected Him. He persistently pursued them, speaking through His prophets. The people heard the words of Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Ezekiel, and instead of heeding the warnings they became angry and rejected the simple message, which was, "Follow God alone and you will be saved." Warnings were given time and again but seldom heeded.

The parable in our lesson this week, while supplying a nail in the coffin of the religious leader's power, was also perhaps one more attempt to warn those who knew the Scriptures well. Jesus second parable told in Matthew 21 was actually a retelling of the words in Isaiah. The Pharisees lis-

tening would have known immediately the context. (Read Isaiah 5: 1-7.) This scripture clearly indicated that Israel was God's vineyard with God as the landowner. My heart is tendered by God's words and intonation in Isaiah 5:4 "What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it?" Let those words sink in as they demonstrate God had always loved and provided for His people yet received only their rejection.

Jesus' parable told how the tenants (religious leaders) were withholding what was owed to the landowner (God). There was a power play. They had assumed command of the vineyard and no longer cared they were merely renters. When the landowner's servants came to collect the fruit owed, they were beaten, stoned, and killed. Finally, the landowner sent his own son to collect what was owed; he too was murdered.

The teacher's of the law knew well the meaning of this parable. I can almost see

Jesus' eyes staring at them when He asked, "What will he [the owner] do to those tenants?" They rightly answered that the land would be given to other tenants who will distribute the fruit correctly. They knew the scripture.

The conversation became tense when Jesus challenged their knowledge of the scripture about the stone the builders rejected? (Psalm 118:22-23) While it might seem strange that Jesus would begin talking about a stone it was actually the purpose of the parable. The vineyard's owner was about to oust the old tenants to build anew for the next

tenants. New structures need a cornerstone for the foundation and Jesus was again suggesting the purpose of His coming. I can almost hear a gasp from His disciples as they remembered Jesus and Peter's conversation about the "Rock" upon which His church would be built.

Could this have been a final warning to those whose hearts were hard and steeped

in tradition and power? Can you feel the tension as Jesus continued his explanation? "He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." (Vs. 44 NIV) In other words, the capstone was coming and those who don't move get crushed!

Matthew 21:45 says the Pharisees knew that Jesus was talking about them but instead of heeding this final warning, verse 46 says, "They looked for a way to arrest him..." Ironically, they were the ones plotting to kill the son of the landowner while rejecting the very God they professed to serve. They knew the scriptures but their hearts were so prideful concerning their own importance, they only wanted to rid their kingdom of this insolent man.

God is patient but there will come a time when His warnings will cease and His judgment will come. We, His Church, have been given permission and the commission to work His land. How are we doing? Are we offering Him the good fruits of our labor or withholding the good things He has given us for ourselves? Let us be tenants who are faithful with the land He has given and offer to Him only good fruit.

Grace is a Bible teacher, conference leader, and member of First Church, Clinton.



Explore the Bible

with Cyndi Grace

Victory Over Fear • Romans 8:31-39

While in seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, I ministered in a nearby nursing home. I met a woman who had been bed-ridden for 14 years, and sadly she believed her failed health was God's judgment on her sin. Over the two years I was in and out of that convalescent home, she and I became very close, and I learned many humbling lessons as I read to her and prayed with her. One day, Mrs. Gladys I will call her, told this young preacher boy something that would forever stick in my mind: "It's bad to suffer, but it's worse to suffer alone."

One of the most encouraging and inspiring truths that resonates from the Gospel is that the child of God is never alone, never. In Romans 8 Paul removes any doubt and answers all questions regarding the permanent, perpetual, persistent presence of God in the believer's life. In Romans 8 beginning with verse 31, the Apostle begins a litany of questions that perhaps you and I have at one time or another have asked ourselves: "If God is for us, who is against us?" "Who can bring an accusation against God's elect?" "Who is the one who condemns?"

Each time Paul posed one of these questions, he followed it with an answer. And each answer represented the fact that God

is on the believer's side. He is for us, with us, and in us. Therefore, no one has the power to change our status. In other words once we are logged in with God we never get logged out. Oh, and the good news is you only have to know one password and know it one time to stay connected: Jesus. Because we have received salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, we have been

given access to the inner chambers of God. But it's not a one-time access; it's a lifetime membership. And once God enters the heart of a human, he is there forever. This truth gives us victory over fear.

The promise of God's presence is a game changer. Knowing that the Lord will never leave you nor forsake you gives the believer confidence to face uncertainties, courage to walk through current crises, and comfort in the midst of heartache and disap-

pointment. Practicing the presence of God will tame all of your fears. John said it this way: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 Jn 4:18 NIV). Being aware of the presence of God in your life gives you the ability to hunt down and root out any haunting and harmful fear that is keeping you from living in victory.

In 1974, Bill and Gloria Gaither were awarded the recognition of Gospel Song of the year by the Gospel Music Association and the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP). The song that garnered the award was, "Because He lives." The lyrics of this hymn have ministered to millions over the last four decades, reminding believers that we have victory over our fear: "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow."

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Because he lives all fear is gone. Because I know he holds the future, life is worth the living just because he lives."

In Romans 8 and verse 35 Paul puts forth another list of questions that relate to God's love for us and presence with us: "Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" In verse 37 he answers with an emphatic "no." Then in verses 38 and 39 he expands on his conviction that God was forever with the Christian: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Do you live with Paul's confidence today that God loves you, lives in you, and will be with you to the end of the age? Your birth-right as a son or daughter of the living God is the ever-abiding presence of the Lord. And with his presence comes victory over fear and all others enemies of the believer.

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.



Bible Studies for Life

with Jim Burnett

RADIO

cont. from p. 1

its broadcasts at the Baptist-affiliated university in 1978. The radio station at MC, first aired contemporary Christian music in 1989.

There were a number of factors sparking MC to move ahead with the sale. For more than a decade, America's radio business has experienced a transformation. Media groups

became heavily involved in the commercial radio market through the purchase and operation of several stations. New South Radio Inc., owns several stations in the market.

Other Christian radio stations compete for listeners in the same Central Mississippi market, and some broadcasts are available nationwide. Rather than using traditional approaches, millions of listeners now use easily accessible apps and Internet streaming.

In addition, MC leaders say the current 340-foot radio tower on campus is at the end of its useful life and would have required a substantial upgrade at a tremendous cost, or removal.

In announcing the sale, MC officials say much of the radio station's equipment at its present location will be transferred to New South Radio. The station's offices and space in the studio will be used to meet academic department

needs on the Clinton campus.

The station's call letters originated with the names of two of Mississippi College's beloved communication professors Hollis and Julia Todd. The MC Communication Department also awards scholarships named for the Todds.

Listeners who followed MC Choctaws football games on STAR 93.5 every fall will be able to pick up the games via live streaming on the university's athletics website. The

station also aired Clinton High Arrows football games.

Once the transfer is finalized, New South Radio will determine and provide the type of commercial programming over 93.5 FM.

Listeners can contact Mississippi College with questions or comments about the sale by email at studio@star93.fm.com, by calling the station at (601) 925-3458, or by using the "Contact Us" tab on the station's website: star93fm.com.

Just for the Record



▲ Pastor Justin Simmons and five others from **TRINITY CHURCH, MONROE COUNTY**, attended Flashpoint, a disciple-making conference in Birmingham, Ala., in January.

In other Church News:

► **Ramah Church, McCall Creek**, is presenting *Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames* Apr. 2, 3, and 4, 7 p.m. For information, call (985) 515-4828.

► The **Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission** of the Southern Baptist Convention will host its second **ERLC Academy on Introduction to Christian Ethics** May 22-23 in Nashville, Tenn. The event is an effort to equip pastors and students to apply the gospel to complex moral and ethical issues of the day. For more information, visit erlc.com.



Donna McClendon received a plaque for her work in the music ministry of **GRACE CHAPEL CHURCH, BROOKLYN**. She is shown with pastor Jim Veitch.



► Youth from **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, mowed, cleared brush, and cleaned yards for the elderly in the community. Shown is Mayzelle Davis with youth who cleaned her yard.



PARKWAY CHURCH, BILOXI, celebrated their new church groundbreaking on March 4. Dr. Argile Smith, pastor.



CALVARY CHURCH, NATCHEZ, has a gospel country band which performs the first Saturday of every month. Members are Eddie Freeman, Spanky Feltus, James Green, Wesley Bruce, Bob Buseck, and Jackie Britt. Also shown is Avery Michaels on piano.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God

in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. I have sinned.

2. I want forgiveness for my sins

and freedom from eternal death. I repent.

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the

grave to forgive my sins and to restore

my relationship with you.

4. I believe in Jesus.

5. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship

with Him and receive Christ's love, mercy, and Lord.

6. I want to be a Christian and have the right to be one. Children of

God, I want to have you believe in his name. John 1:12

7. You make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist Church

for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.